



Natural Resources Conservation Service
675 U.S. Courthouse
801 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

December 17, 2002

TENNESSEE BULLETIN NO. 300-03-02

SUBJECT: LTP - WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

Purpose. To provide guidance for use of the FY 2003 WHIP average cost lists.

Expiration Date: December 31, 2003.

The FY 2003 WHIP Average Cost Lists have been posted in Section I of the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

The FY 2003 WHIP program allows the use of either a “practice-based” or a “component-based” average cost list. The component-based average cost list has been used for past WHIP cost lists. The new practice-based cost list includes all components that make up variations within WHIP practices.

Either cost list method may be selected for FY 2003 WHIP contracts. The cost-share method selected must be consistent throughout the contract. The practice-based costs cannot be mixed within a contract using component-based costs.

Both average cost lists have advantages associated with their use. The component-based cost list will produce a longer, more detailed listing on the AD-1155 and will require more time to initially prepare. However, it will provide for payments to be made as components of a practice are completed instead of holding payments until all components of a practice are completed. The component method may be preferable to ensure that the landowner receives a full 75 percent payment when higher cost wildlife plants are selected, when a site requires extra preparation, or when a customized plan is preferred.

The practice-based cost list will reduce the time needed to initially prepare the AD-1155 and time required to make payments. It does not allow for partial payments; payment is made when all components of the practice are completed. In some situations, the practice method may not provide sufficient financial assistance to cover the cost of some of the higher cost wildlife plants, when extra site preparation is required, or when a more customized plan is preferred.

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When working with clients, District Conservationists should consider both the “component” and “practice” average cost lists to determine which will best serve the wildlife needs within individual wildlife habitat management plans and contracts.

Further assistance is available from Carol Chandler at (615) 452-3498.

/s/

JAMES W. FORD
State Conservationist